

Application No.: 10/629300  
Docket No.: CH2890USNA

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#### Amendments to Claims

1. (Currently amended) An aqueous ~~slurry comprising pigmentary aluminum alumina trihydrate, aluminum trihydrate slurries~~ extender pigment slurry for blending with a titanium dioxide pigment slurry for making a high solids slurry comprising titanium dioxide capable of use in papermaking applications, comprising:

- (a) ~~at least 50% by weight of the slurry of dispersed aluminum alumina trihydrate~~ pigmentary particles having an average particle size of at least 0.5 micron;
- (b) a dispersant comprising an acrylic dispersing resin, and optionally citric acid;
- (c) a rheology modifier consisting of a synthetic hectorite clay in an amount from 0.1 up to about 1% by weight of the total slurry formulation;
- (d) optionally a compound to adjust pH;
- (e) a biocide; and
- (f) water, wherein at least 50% by weight of the slurry is dispersed alumina trihydrate and the synthetic hectorite clay of the slurry for reducing the viscosity of the slurry compared to the viscosity of the same slurry which is free of a synthetic hectorite clay.

2. (Original) The slurry of claim 1 wherein the slurry is FDA compliant for indirect food contact.

3. (Currently amended) The slurry of claim 1 ~~comprising at~~ wherein at least 67-68% by weight of the slurry is dispersed aluminum alumina trihydrate pigmentary particles.

4. (Currently amended) A blended slurry, comprising: an aqueous slurry of pigmentary rutile titanium dioxide particles and an aqueous ~~pigmentary aluminum alumina trihydrate slurry,~~ comprising: the aqueous alumina trihydrate slurry comprising

- (a) ~~at least 50% by weight of dispersed aluminum alumina trihydrate pigmentary~~ particles having an average particle size of at least 0.5 micron;
- (b) a dispersant comprising an acrylic dispersing resin, and optionally citric acid;
- (c) a rheology modifier consisting of a synthetic hectorite clay in an amount from 0.1 up to about 1% by weight of the total slurry formulation;
- (d) optionally a compound to adjust pH;
- (e) a biocide; and
- (f) water, wherein at least 50% by weight of the alumina trihydrate slurry is dispersed alumina trihydrate and the synthetic hectorite clay being for reducing the viscosity of the alumina trihydrate slurry compared to the viscosity of the same alumina trihydrate slurry which is free of a synthetic hectorite clay.

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5. (Currently amended) The slurry of claim 4 wherein the weight percentage of the rutile titanium dioxide slurry is from about 75 to about 50% and the weight percentage of the ~~aluminum~~ alumina trihydrate slurry is from about 25 to about 50%.
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Cancelled)
8. (New) The slurry of claim 1 wherein the Brookfield viscosity of the slurry is less than 1500 cps at 20 rpm.
9. (New) The slurry of claim 4 wherein the Brookfield viscosity of the alumina trihydrate slurry is less than 1500 cps at 20 rpm.